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9 December 1946

COUNTRY: Palestine/Egypt

SUBJECT: Activities of the Grand Mufti

DATE OF INFORMATION: 4 - 10 October 1946

REFERENCE: 2-3

The following information was received from various reliable British sources:

1. According to a member of the Arab League, one of the reasons for the visit of Muhammad Izzat Harun, Umar Harun and Abu Harun to Egypt was to obtain the Grand Mufti's approval to their raising money for propaganda.

Washington Comment: See SB-1217 of 15 October which contains other items discussed by these three men with the Mufti.

2. An independent source states that Izzat Harun, Umar Harun and Abu Harun also discussed with the Mufti ways and means of conducting propaganda on his behalf in Syria.
3. They were also to sound out the governments of those countries to discover whether any of them would welcome the Mufti as a guest. The Mufti wants to go to Damascus, that being the best center for controlling the activities of the Palestine Arabs.
4. The Presidents of Syria and of the Lebanon both intimated in recent conversations with a reliable source that the Mufti would not be welcome in their countries.

REMARKS Activities of the Grand Mufti

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5. A number of the Syrian colony in Egypt stated that since therapy, as well as Grand al-Baghat and Isa al-Hafiz, visited Cairo to conduct sessions of the old Palestinian Committee for the Nations of Palestine, in order to collect funds and partly with a view to bringing some of the members into the Arab Higher Committee.
6. According to a source close to the Syrian Legation in Egypt, the Mufti visited Palestine between All (middle of the King) early in October and told him that, while he obviously hoped that he would not be forced to leave Egyptian hospitality by failing to honor the undertakings which he had given, the situation in Palestine was becoming acute and he might be called upon to take a more active part in affairs.
7. Subsequently the Mufti visited the Syrian Ministry, Grand Hussein beg, and reported that he had sold to the Prince. Grand Hussein afterwards expressed the opinion that the Mufti was violating of leaving Egypt.
8. Grand al-Baghat (Secretary to the Mufti) mentioned that Grand al-Baghat and Isa al-Hafiz were recruiting the Arab Higher Committee and had lunched a number of invited Palestinian nationalists. He added that Grand al-Baghat was particularly concerned with raising funds and creating the necessary organization to conduct the Arab Higher Committee.
9. According to Grand al-Baghat, the Grand Mufti believes that the British were beginning to realize that the Arab claims were just, and that it was still possible that the Arab Higher Committee might attend the London Conference.

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REMARKS-CONTINUED R.A.687732ZALS GWT

MEMORANDUM ACTIVITIES OF THE GREAT BROTHER

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5. A number of the Syrian colony in Egypt stated that these things as well as Jamal al-Nasr and Sa'ad Surayh, started before to contact members of the old Palestinian Committee for the purposes of Palestine, partly in order to collect funds and partly with a view to bringing some of the members into the Arab Higher Committee.
6. According to a source close to the Syrian Legation in Egypt, the Arab National Prison Movement All (leader of the King) early in October and told him that, while he sincerely hoped that he would not be forced to leave Egyptian hospitality by failing to honor the undertakings which he had given, the situation in Palestine was becoming acute and he might be called upon to take a more active part in action.
7. Subsequently the Arab visited the Syrian Embassy, Sa'ad Surayh and reported that he had said to the Prison. Sa'ad Surayh afterwards expressed the opinion that the Arab was desiring of leaving Egypt.
8. Sa'ad al-Nasr (Secretary to the Arab) confirmed that Sa'ad al-Nasr and the Arab were negotiating the Arab Higher Committee. It had included a number of called Palestinian intellectuals. In order that with Sa'ad was particularly concerned with raising funds and creating the necessary organization to conduct Palestine propaganda.
9. According to Sa'ad al-Nasr, the Great Arab believes that the nucleus were beginning to realize that the Arab colony were poor, and that it was still possible that the Arab Higher Committee might extend the London Conference.

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